

## ELKS' RICHEST ORDER IN THE COUNTRY

Dispensed Almost Quarter  
of a Million in Charity  
During Past Year.

### NATIONAL HOME FOR AGED ELKS

Portland, Oregon, July 5.—The order of Elks is the richest fraternal organization in America. It instituted 29 new lodges last year and increased its membership over 25,000. Nearly a quarter of a million dollars was distributed in charity by the various Elks lodges during the past year.

The formal opening of the 48th grand lodge of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks took place last night but today marked the actual beginning of the work.

Thomas E. Mills, of Superior, Wis., was today elected exalted ruler of the order. The election was by acclamation.

Following the usual routine proceedings of the organization, the order of business called for the reading of the annual report of John P. Sullivan, grand exalted ruler, the report of Fred Robinson, grand secretary, and of Edward Leach, grand treasurer.

Among the principal themes dwelt upon by grand exalted ruler Sullivan today were the new Elks national home, which he strongly urged should be built at once and the ritual modifications under discussion. Exalted ruler Sullivan is vigorously opposed to any changes in the ritual as it now stands.

The grand exalted ruler gives a serious consideration to the new Elks national home project in Virginia. He points out the gravity of the situation which calls for the construction of an institution which cannot be built for less than \$500,000, and for which but \$100,000 has been raised.

**Tuberculosis Sanatorium.**  
Of the proposed tuberculosis sanatorium, the exalted ruler said: "It is my thought that the present time the grand lodge, now that it is erecting a new Elks home, is not in a position to construct a tuberculosis sanatorium."

One important recommendation of the exalted ruler is that hereafter the federal census be used as a basis for granting dispensations to new lodges but that the population required be reduced from 5,000 to 3,000. He favors, however, that where a state census shows a city of 3,000 population that such city be permitted to have a charter.

The exalted ruler recommends the complete and thorough observance of the "Eleven o'clock hour" in all lodges nightly.

The problem of pensions is discussed by Mr. Sullivan at length. He recommends that pensions be granted widows of past grand exalted rulers in the sum of \$100 a year.

**Wealthiest American Order.**  
According to the annual report of grand secretary Edward Robinson, read to the convention today, the total valuation of property owned by the subordinate lodges at the close of the fiscal year, March 31, was \$29,291,822.45, which, according to the report, makes the order the wealthiest in America.

The total membership in the order as shown by secretary Robinson's report is 284,724, a net increase of 25,000 in the last year.

The total receipts of the grand lodge from all sources exceeded those of previous years in the amount of \$274,211. The total disbursements were \$105,204. The surplus on hand amounted to \$406,232. The total amount received by subordinate lodges from all sources was \$75,925,124; amount expended \$73,248,482, leaving a balance on hand of \$2,676,642.

**Many New Lodges.**  
During the year 29 new lodges were instituted.

Secretary Robinson's report shows that since 1880 the order has disbursed for charitable purposes a total of \$4,724,211. The amount credited to the past year, New York, No. 1, holds first place in this respect with a disbursement of \$9,184.

### FORMAL OPENING ELKS' GRAND LODGE

Officers Make Reports and  
Exalted Ruler Delivers  
Annual Address.

Portland, Ore., July 5.—Last night witnessed the formal opening of the 48th annual convention of the grand lodge of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, C. C. Bradley, exalted ruler of the Portland lodge, presiding.

This opening ceremony was a general reception to the visiting members of the order. Addresses of welcome in behalf of the reunion commission, the city and state, the response by grand exalted ruler, John P. Sullivan, constituted the exercises.

Today the delegates to the convention took up the actual inner work of the organization. The reports of the various officers were read and grand exalted ruler Sullivan delivered his annual address, which was a synopsis of the work of the order since he assumed the stewardship.

The city rapidly is filling up with visiting Elks and others. Yesterday 20 special trains from the east and various coast points arrived. Band after band, followed by the various delegations, paraded the downtown district, and everywhere there was an evidence of "the joy of living."

The lights of the grand court of honor and other illuminations were turned on last night. The registration bureau shows more than 15,000 visiting Elks with many more to register.

**Second Explosion; Two Killed.**  
A second explosion occurred in the Cadeby colliery this afternoon and was followed by a fall of the roof in some of the galleries which cut off the rescue brigade of about 120 men who were in the mine at the time. The rescue brigade was killed and injured.

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